



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Heritage Preservation Board
Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 7:00 PM
Edina Community Room
4801 50th Street West

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Joel Stegner, Chris Rofidal, Claudia Carr, Jean Rehkamp
Larson, Ross Davis, Colleen Curran, and Elizabeth Montgomery

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Schwartzbauer and Arlene Forrest

STAFF PRESENT: Joyce Repya, Associate Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Vogel, Heritage Preservation Consultant

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: April 13, 2010

Member Carr moved approval of the minutes from the April 13, 2010 meeting. Member Davis seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried.

II. GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

Chairman Stegner provided the Board with the goals and objectives discussed at the April meeting reorganized into four major classifications with underlying tasks to address each goal. The Board discussed each item and made changes to provide clarity. All agreed on the following list of goals and objectives to pursue in 2010:

1. Communicate to and educate the Edina community and schools about the benefits of heritage preservation.
 - A. Revise and update heritage preservation information on the Edina city website.
 - B. Sponsor Preservation Month (May) educational activities.
 - C. Conduct walking tours of the Country Club and the Morningside neighborhoods.
 - D. Represent Edina at the 30th Annual Minnesota Preservation Conference (Sept 16-17 in Winona).
2. Research and document current and additional heritage resources.
 - A. Complete the Morningside Bungalows multiple property study.
 - B. Revise and update the Historic Context Study reflecting changes since 1999.
 - C. Identify significant buildings and landmarks representing each decade of Edina history.
 - D. Nominate at least one property for heritage landmark designation.
 - E. Document city and school district properties on Eden Avenue.
3. Advise and review proposed changes impacting heritage resources.
 - A. Advise and assist historic property owners on conservation and rehabilitation issues.

- B. Approve renovation plans that are sensitive to heritage preservation guidelines.
 - C. Develop an annual calendar of commission and other heritage preservation activities.
4. Identify and increase resources devoted to Edina heritage preservation.
- A. Apply for Legacy Grant funds for improved accessibility for Cahill School and the Grange Hall.
 - B. Complete the CLG funded thematic study of heritage sources associated with Edina women.
 - C. Explore potential Edina civic organization support for heritage preservation.

Further discussion ensued regarding prioritizing the goals with some board members choosing activities for which they would be responsible. Member Davis volunteered to review the existing historic tours of the city. Member Carr expressed interest in beginning research on the next property to be designated a heritage landmark. Member Curran expressed interest in organizing the annual calendar. No formal action was taken.

III. COMMUNITY COMMENT: None

IV. CLG GRANT “MORNINGSIDE BUNGALOW STUDY: Update

Consultant Vogel explained the monthly progress made on the bungalow study and provided the Board with a list of significant events in the state and country that coincided with the development of Morningside from 1905 – 1940. Board members found it very interesting to see the growth of the neighborhood in context with what was happening in the world.

Mr. Vogel observed that the bungalow style in addition to providing affordable housing is known for addressing gender architecture - One the first design styles driven by home economics, which has an interesting correlation with the women's movement in the 1920's. Striving to liberate women from the drudgery of housework through the design, most of the living space is found on one floor, and the dining room, bedrooms, kitchen and bathrooms are clustered around the central living room.

Following a brief discussion, Board members thanked Mr. Vogel for his report and expressed continued interest in the bungalow study.

V. CAHILL SCHOOL & GRANGE HALL: Accessibility Improvements

Mr. Vogel reminded the Board that they had asked him to research the possibility of applying for a Legacy Grant to improve the accessibility to the Cahill School and Grange Hall. Since the first of the year, the monies for the initial phase of funding have been pretty well depleted with more requests for funding received than the State had expected. That being said, the project is still under consideration, targeting the submittal of the application for the Legacy Grant in June with the next wave of available funds.

Mr. Vogel provided a site plan demonstrating the removal of the existing ramp-way system that joins the Cahill School to the Grange Hall. The new plan allows for ADA accessible entrances

at the rear of both the Cahill School and Grange Hall with an ADA accessible plaza between the two buildings to allow for outdoor activities with unlimited accessibility.

Following a brief discussion, Board members agreed that the proposed ADA improvements will not only enhance the programming for the school activities that take place at the buildings and in the historic park, but also enhance the historic integrity of the Cahill School and Grange Hall. No formal action was taken.

VI. CLG GRANT “WOMEN OF EDINA”:

Responding to questions raised at the April meeting when Consultant Vogel was not in attendance, Mr. Vogel advised the Board that the CLG grant approved by the Minnesota Historical Society will focus on heritage resources associated with women’s history. The information generated by the study will be used to educate the public about significant historic properties associated with Edina women, and will help shape new strategies for interpretive and educational programs. Vogel added that prior research of Edina’s history has resulted in quite a bit of information regarding the significant influence of women in the Minnehaha Grange, Morningside, the Edina schools, as well as commerce in the city - it will be very beneficial to pull that information together, and delve deeper into the impact women have had on the Edina community.

Vogel explained that he has conducted a similar study for other communities in the State which have been very well received by both the community, and the State Historical Society (SHPO).

Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Vogel for his explanation. No formal action was taken.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. May Term Project – Planner Repya reminded the Board that Elizabeth Montgomery, the HPB student representative has chosen the updating of the HPB pages on the City’s website for her May Term project. Under Planner Repya’s supervision, each of the 15 pages will be evaluated and rewritten to include photos, maps, forms, and up to date information on each historic resource. Ms. Montgomery will take into consideration the website evaluation forms completed by the Board as well as input received from several citizens. The project is scheduled for May 19th – June 9th. On June 9th Elizabeth will present the completed project at the Edina High School where the projects are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.

B. Heritage Award – Planner Repya reminded the Board that the presentation of the 2010 Heritage Award to the home of Peter and Sandy Cochrane, 4611 Arden Avenue will be made at the May 18 City Council meeting. Repya encouraged Board members to attend the meeting when the Mayor will also present a proclamation for “Preservation Month – May 2010”.

C. Small Area Study – Public Works Garage, Eden Avenue – Member Rofidal, the HPB representative on the study group for the Public Works garage on Eden Avenue reported that the study group, made up of Edina residents has been meeting daily for the past three weeks, and has created several conceptual designs for the area addressing some of the following issues:

- Provide for a more pedestrian friendly connection over Highway 100 to City Hall.
- Build over the railroad tracks.
- The current inadequate parking is a huge issue to be addressed.
- The school's bus garage is a huge problem – right now it isn't a high priority for the School District because there is not a benefit to education. That being said, the School District has expressed a willingness to look at moving if the right opportunity were to occur.

Rofidal concluded by observing that he has enjoyed being part of a fascinating process which he hopes the community appreciates. Moving forward, it will be very interesting to see how this first exercise involving residents in the vision proceeds.

Board members thanked Mr. Rofidal for representing the HPB on the committee and agreed that the outcome of the process will be very interesting.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE: None

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE: June 8, 2010

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Repya